



**First Christian Church of Decatur
(Disciples of Christ)**

601 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue, Decatur, Georgia 30030

404-378-3621

DecaturDisciples.org

fccdecatur@gmail.com

Resolve to Love 🌐 Agree to Differ 🌐 Unite to Serve 🌐 Break Bread Together

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Worship theme

The Spirit of the Lord, the Eternal, is on me.
The Lord has appointed me for a special purpose.
He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to repair broken hearts,
And to declare to those who are held captive and bound in prison,
Be free from your imprisonment!

He has sent me to announce the year of jubilee, the season of the
Eternal's favor:

for our enemies it will be a day of God's wrath;

For those who mourn it will be a time of comfort.

I am filled with joy and my soul vibrates with exuberant hope,
because of the Eternal my God;

The whole earth sprouts newness and life in the springtime,
and green shoots break through the well-seeded garden soil.

That's what it is like with the Eternal's victory—
the Lord will cause justice and praise to sprout up
before all the nations, for all peoples to see.

- Isaiah 61, adapted

All In



We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Theme	Rev. Answai T. White-Burch
Prelude	Adam Cole
Welcome and Announcements	Ryan McGinness
Opening Hymn	<i>“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”</i> 461

*1. Lord, whose love through humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.*

*2. Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.*

*3. As we worship, grant us vision,
till thy love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving
your abundant life to share.*

*4. Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,*

*that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know, and live.*

Call to Worship

Ryan McGinness

One: Come now to worship God with justice and truth.

Many: Let us speak the truth to one another, rendering true judgments that make for peace.

One: Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Many: Teach us to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the helpless.

One: Hear God's demand and promise:

Many: Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

Unison Prayer of Invocation *(by A. Osdieck)*

Ryan McGinness

Lord, you bring glad tidings to the poor. Let us hear. You heal the brokenhearted. Heal us too. You free the prisoners from their jails. Free us from ourselves. Loving God, please come to us, and send us out, forgiven, to the poor, the broken-hearted, the imprisoned. In your Name and by your grace, Amen.

Song of Praise

"Refrain from Christ Arose"

224

*Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes
He arose a victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! He arose! Alleluia, Christ arose!*

We Receive and Respond to the Word

Holy Scriptures

Ryan McGinness

Luke 4:16-21, 28-30

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Answai T. White-Burch

Anthem

“The Sun Is On The Sea and Shore”

Choir

Introduction of Interim Regional Minister

Stan Saunders

Sermon

“It’s Time”

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes

Communion Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

452

*1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

[Refrain]

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the
night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.
3. , in my heart.*

*2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
[Refrain]*

*3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.*

*Whom shall I send?
[Refrain]*

Invitation to Faithful Stewardship & Holy Communion Rev. Answai T. White-Burch

Prayers for the Bread and Cup Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes

(Christ invites you to partake of Holy Communion. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us. After the Words of Institution are proclaimed, you are invited to partake of the Bread and the Cup.)

Words of Institution Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes

One: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said,

Many: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

Many: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you remember the Lord until He comes.

Unison Prayer of Commission Rev. Answai T. White-Burch

God our help: We thank you for this supper, shared in the spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

We Are Led Out by the Spirit

Closing Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

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*1. God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.*

*2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.*

3. *Cure thy children's warring
madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy righteous goal,
lest we miss thy righteous goal.*

4. *Set our feet on lofty places;
fill our lives that we may be
strengthened with all Christ-like graces
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail our call from thee,
lest we fail our call from thee.*

5. *Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.*

Postlude

Adam Cole

Benediction

Rev. Joan Bell-Haynes

Mark Your Calendars

Sundays – Rev. Stan Saunders Sunday School, Pathfinders, 9:30 AM

Sun, May 5 – Willow School Spring Recital, Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary, 3:00 PM

Sun, May 5 – Four Seasons Orchestra Performance, Clairmont Oaks, 2:00 PM

Sat, May 11 – Toy Park Cleanup Day, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sat, May 11 – Four Seasons Orchestra Performance, Briarcliff Oaks, 2:00 PM

Tue, May 14 – Red Cross Blood Drive, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Fri, May 17 – Community Dinner, 6:00 PM

Sat, May 18 – Robbin Marcus Spring Recital, Sanctuary

Sun, May 19 – Amy Wilson Spring Recital, Sanctuary

Sun, May 19 – Pentecost Sunday!

Sat, May 25 – Junk in the Trunk, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Welcome Statement

All In



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ) is an open and affirming congregation.

We welcome everyone into full participation in the life and membership of the church.

Inspired and informed by God's love, mercy, and justice, we are purposefully involved in the healing and helping of our community and our world. We covenant with God and the greater community to nurture a spirit of love and service to neighbors, honor one another's differences, and fellowship in the breaking of the bread.

Actively striving to honor each other's race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, family configuration, political affiliation, economic circumstance, or theological perspective, we truly welcome all.

Online Giving



First Christian Church of Decatur is a spiritual community that transcends physical distance. In this unprecedented time, online giving is a positive way that this growing faith community can be supported.

As we often say in worship at the Invitation to Faithful Stewardship, "Those in need, please take; those with abundance, please give." If and when you find yourself in need, please let us know so we might be of assistance. You matter to your Church, which is the Body of Christ. The missions of our church are imperative to nurture a hurt and hurting world.

For those who would like to give out of gratitude for all the Lord is doing in our lives, please click the following link:

<https://www.osvhub.com/decaturdisciples/giving/funds>

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Ministers: All the People

Your Church Staff:

Rev. Daniel C. Brower, Associate Pastor

Russell Broomfield-Ranney, *Church Bookkeeper*
Adam Cole, *Organist*
Tanya Demjanec, *Church Administrator*
William E. Garner, *Director of Music*
Kedric Kelly, *Facility Manager*

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 3 pm